

HOUSE RESOLUTION 315

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastors and members of Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church comprise one such congregation, and this year they are celebrating the church's 100 years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, the rich history of Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church dates back to 1910 when eight charter members, inspired by the Word and dedicated to the Missionary Baptist Mission, began worshipping together at Sister Mary Kelley's humble dwelling in the rural section of Tyner, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, for the next ten years, this seminal group met in various homes until Brother Eaton Hawkins graciously donated a portion of his property on Hickory Valley Road in 1920, finally giving Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church a permanent home; and

WHEREAS, in 1941, eminent domain forced the congregants to re-locate; equipped with a deep and abiding faith and a vision to impact the world for Christ, Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church enjoyed the beauty of God's creation under the trees on Pinewood Drive until land was secured for a new sanctuary in 1942; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church has embarked upon countless outreach efforts and witnessed the birth of numerous inspirational and relevant programs, including Min-Tom Children's Home, the Christian Education Ministry, Christian Men's Fellowship Hour, Lively Ladies, The Hawkinsville Gazette, the Video and Audio Tape Ministry, the Golden Age Club, and Children's Church; and

WHEREAS, Senior Pastor Dr. Bobby L. Hampton, Sr., a man of great integrity and character who truly has a heart for God's people, has continually expanded the church's outreach and tirelessly endeavored to transform the lives of men, women, and children, both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, firmly believing that the challenge God set forth through the Apostle Paul to "study to show thyself approved" is a standard that must be taken seriously, Pastor Bobby L. Hampton, Sr., received his Doctorate of Ministry degree in August of 1999; and

WHEREAS, Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church congregants are also blessed with the spiritual guidance of Minister Johnny Johnson, who was ordained in January of 2000, and were pleased to welcome the addition of four associate ministers between 2001-2002; and

WHEREAS, with congregational input and expectant prayer, the forward thinking leaders of this thriving congregation decided in 2003 to erect a new house of worship in order to accommodate the increasing membership and help the congregation continue its worthy mission of spreading the Good News to its members and the world at large; and

WHEREAS, the magnificent new facility, a multi-level sanctuary designed to seat 1,200 and complete with modern Sunday school classrooms, an education department, a full service fellowship hall, and countless amenities, was dedicated on October 29, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 100 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Chattanooga, the surrounding area, and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Hawkinsville Missionary Baptist Church, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.